year. Major components of such an Action Plan are as under :-

(i) Orientation of State functionaries to gear up technical system approach for any locust emergency.

(ii) Constitution of survey and control teams.

(iii) Setting up of Control Room at Circle Headquarters of Locust Warning Organisation during active locust season.

(iv) Ensuring deployment of adequate manpower, control equipment, wireless sets, availability of pesticides, etc.

Atlas of Soil Survey and Land use planning

1650. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the latest atlas of Soil Survey and land use planning are available for Maharashtra and Assam;

(b) if so, whether it has been put to applied use; and

(c) the benefits of this atlas to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) The National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Nagpur has prepared the Soil Atlas of Maharashtra and in case of Assam it is under preparation and will be completed during 97-98. This map can be put to use by various developmental agencies for the benefit of the farmers. The Soil Atlas helps farmers in deciding suitable crops and cropping pattern.

Scarcity of Urea in Andhra Pradesh

1651. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been scarcity of urea in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the urea shortage has affected the Kharif season;

(c) if so, whether the State Government has been pressing hard for supply of urea since 1995;

(d) if so, the urea supplied to Andhra Pradesh in 1995-96 and the total demand in that year; and

(e) the steps being taken to fulfil the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILISERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (e) The table below gives the allocation, availability and consumption of urea in Andhra Pradesh during the year 1995-96 and Kharif '96 season

('000 tonnes)

	Alloca-tion	Availa-bility	Consump-tion
1995-96	2142.34	2213.88	1828.45
Kharif'96	1047.31	1026.40	991.38
			(Estimated)

Thus the availability was adequate to support the consumption.

During 1995-96, urea demand of the State was met through augmentation of supplies from indigenous production and by undertaking movement from the non-conventional sources of supplies.

Remunerative prices to sugarcane producers

1652. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the sugarcane growers are not adequately rewarded for the quality of sugarcane they supply to mill owners;

(b) whether it is due to weakness inherent in the present pricing policy of sugar; and

(c) if so, whether Government plan to set up "sugar pricing board" so as to strengthen the development, marketing and extension staff; thereby allowing farming community the real benefit/incentive for adopting improved sugarcane production technology?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) The Central Govt. fixes Statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane which is linked to recovery of sugar, taking into account all the relevant factors such as the cost of production of sugarcane, the return to the grower from alternative crops & the general trend of prices of agricultural commodities, the availability of sugar to the consumer at a fair price, the prices at which sugar produced from sugarcane is sold by producers of sugar and the recovery of sugar from sugarcane; and after consulting such other bodies and Associations including State Govts. as may be necessary for the purpose. Besides this, 50% of the excess realisation of the sale of free sale quota of sugar is also receivable by farmers. Ministry of Food have informed that there is no proposal to set up "Sugar Pricing Board". However they had convened a Conference of Sugar Ministers of all sugar producing States/UTs on 5.2.94. In that Conference, a Committee of Sugar Ministers of five State Govts. viz. Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Karnataka was constituted to recommend the pricing Policy of 'Sugarcane'. The Committee submitted its Report on 3.4.95. Another Conference of Sugar Ministers of all the sugar producing States/ UTs. Was convened on 6.5.95 to consider the recommendations of that Committee. Though majority of the States/UTs supported the formation of National Pricing Board for 'Sugarcane', there was difference of opinion about its terms of reference. The Govt. decided to seek detailed views/suggestions from the State/UTs in this regard.

भोपाल में भोज आर्द्र भूमि परियोजना

1653. **श्री चिम्मनभाई हरिभाई शुक्ल:** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे:

(क) भोपाल में भोज आर्द्र भूमि परियोजना जिसके लिए जापान से वित्तीय सेवाभार प्राप्त हुई है, की वर्तमान स्थिति क्या है;

(ख) इस परियोजना के क्रियान्वयन पर कितनी राशि खर्च होने की संभावना है;

(ग) राज्य और केन्द्र सरकार की वित्तीय सहायता में कितने प्रतिशत की भागीदारी है तथा जापान से कितनी सहायता प्राप्त हुई है; और

(घ) क्या सरकार ऐसी ही योजनाएं विदिशा और नरसिंहगढ़ में भी शुरू करने का विचार रखती है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (कैप्टन जय नारायण प्रसाद निषाद): (क) भोज आर्द्र भूमि परियोजना, भोपाल अप्रैल, 1995 से शुरू की गई है। परियोजना पर अक्टूबर, 1996 तक 869.69 लाख रुपये खर्च किए जा चुके हैं। विभिन्न उप स्कीमों के लिए विस्तृत परियोजना रिपोर्ट तैयार की गई हैं। कार्य प्रगति पर है।

(ख) और (ग) परियोजना की अनुमानित लागत 231.51 करोड़ रुपये है। इसमें जापान के ओवरसीज इक्नामिक कारपोरेशन फंड से 705 बिलियन येन (वर्तमान मूल्य 210 करोड़ रुपये) की ऋण सहायता उपलब्ध है। शेष व्यय मध्य प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा किया जाएगा।

(घ) जी, नहीं। इन शहरों में ऐसी स्कीम के लिए कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

Steps for ameliorating the condition of rural women

1654. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to stress on the concerns of rural women;

(b) if so, whether concrete steps have been taken to improve the lot of rural women and to conduct any National and State level study to prepare a detailed report thereon; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government is making continuous efforts to improve the lot of rural women. Schemes for poverty eradication like Integrated Rural Development Programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Development of Women & Children in Rural Areas. Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women, Indira Mahila Yojana, Mahila Samriddhi Yojana, Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment are being implemented with rural women as a major target group. Schemes for housing and shelter, educational infrastructure, health care system, support services like child care